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Chair Barrett, Senators Hinkle, Brenden, Hamlett, Jackson, Kaufmann, Keane, Larsen, Peterson, Steinbesser, Tropila, Vincent, Walker, Wanzenried

Chair Barrett and Senators:

I am Allen Schallenger 53 Elser Lane, Sheridan, MT. I am a Montana native, grew up on Carter County ranches, became a wildlife management and research biologist on the eastern Rocky Mountain Front, and was a cattle rancher in south-central Montana and a general outfitter and educational tour operator 20 years in south-western Montana and several years Yellowstone National Park. I keep up to date on several wildlife species including grizzly bears. My grizzly bear experience dates to 1963 with MT FG. I did the first intensive grizzly bear research in Montana outside National Parks 1975-spring 1980. I strongly support SB 142.

In my review of grizzly literature in 2010 I learned that the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. since 2005 has had a better reporting and monitoring system for conflict grizzly bears than does Montana. You can look at their system on the www and compare the information available at Wyoming Game and Fish Grizzly Bear Management to that found on the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks website. To see the Montana info go to wild things, then living with wildlife then relocations. I also learned that the Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide areas are full of grizzly bears and more conflicts are developing. Wyoming reported 251 conflicts with grizzly bears till October 26, 2010. Two people were mauled after that and some livestock killed. Montana conflict numbers are not reported on a regular basis but I did read that there were 263 conflicts in northern Montana in 1998.

Data which I requested and received from MT FWP last week showed 270 problem grizzly bears were trapped 2000- 2010 at least one time. Of the 270 grizzlies 66 were trapped two or more times in Regions 1, 2, and 4. Region 1 trapped 167 grizzlies and killed 22 or shipped them to zoos. The Regions 2, 3 and 4 trapped 103 grizzlies and killed 36 or shipped them to zoos. Region 1 had the best reporting on conflict details and most timely reports to the public. Region 3 had the worst. The years 1995-1999 I requested were not produced by FWP for some reason.

Grizzly bears in southwest Montana and Wyoming have different food habits than northern Montana bears and are also more predaceous and aggressive. Adult males in the Yellowstone area eat 80 % animal matter and 85 % if livestock are present. They kill numerous livestock numbering several hundred sheep and cattle some years. They also kill numerous elk and moose calves and some adults. Along with wolves and other

predators they have severely reduced the numbers of elk on the Upper Gallatin River from 1,500 in 2005 to less than 200 in 2009. Moose numbered 1,200 in Yellowstone National Park the year wolves from Canada were released. By 2009 they could only find 114 moose and grizzlies and wolves were major factors. Likewise the Northern Yellowstone elk herd declined from 16,791 in 1995 to only 4,635 this year.

Yellowstone area grizzly bears mauled 52 people in Wyoming 1992-2010, 27 in southwest Montana 1991-2010 and 4 in Idaho 2000-2009 for a total of 83. Records of grizzly bear mauling reported in the literature show at least 50 per cent of the people suffer severe and extensive injuries. Many days of hospitalization are often needed and severe head trauma is often present as grizzly bears fight by biting heads but also cause severe damage to other body parts. From 1998 through 2010 in the Yellowstone area 87 grizzly bears were shot in self defense and few people were mauled by those bears. The 2010 number of 15 included mistaken identity bears killed also so defense killings may have been a few less. Far fewer large livestock are killed and people mauled in northern Montana. The bear specialist at Kalispell told me last week that he has only investigated one grizzly mauling since 1993 and that was in Region 2 when a grizzly killed Timothy Hilston in 2001 as he was dressing an elk. He said in Region 1 the most conflicts result from grizzlies getting into bird feeders or killing chickens.

Trapping and relocating or translocating problem grizzly bears and black bears is a popular technique but is costly and success diminishes as the desirable and acceptable habitat is filled with high numbers of bears. To improve public safety and knowledge, better Montana reporting is needed within 5 days to the public, media, FWP website and County Sheriff's. Also the annual report is desirable to help analyze the efforts and results state wide and obtain an idea of the costs. In 1991 a Montana research report showed costs of \$1,038.00 to relocate each grizzly bear and no labor costs were figured. We need current costs per bear or other animal per FWP region. Sheriffs are included because they are elected safety officers responsible to county voters. Also you can generally always contact the sheriffs' offices but not MT FWP. The annual map of individual grizzly bear movements obtained by the required radios on grizzly bears of suitable size will be helpful to the public and MT FWP in understanding the bear conflict management.

Please pass this bill. I recommend you include relocation and translocation along with introduction and transplant to cover common word use. Given the wolf debacle we will probably not be introducing any more foreign transplants to Montana. Grizzly bears are the state animal, the FWP symbol and they can be very destructive and dangerous to people, property, livestock, wild ungulates and have been used to curtail businesses and natural resource uses. They are an expensive animal to manage. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.